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## Rice Park becomes marketplace for all kinds of ideas

[Bea Chang](#) ■ 1 hr ago

The Republican National Convention brought 45,000 visitors to the St. Paul, including 15,000 members of the media and a large group of folks you could file under "miscellaneous."

The space in and around Rice Park in downtown St. Paul has become a living, breathing Times Square of sorts. Opinions are on full display here.

"It's been very much like a movie set," says Steve Tredinnick, who lives in downtown St. Paul.

This week he has seen a pink-clad peace protestor on stilts and heard the megaphone of a man who feels John McCain is not pro-life enough.

He has seen people dressed in pig costumes, who are pushing PETA's plan to tax meat. He has also seen a giant, walking pickle, which is simply pushing pickles.

There are even T-shirts that say, "Abolish the 4th of July." The people wearing those shirts don't actually want to abolish the 4th of July. They're promoting the movie, "A Christmas Carol," which is apparently spoofing Michael Moore's films.

Steve Anthony also showed up at the park Thursday wrapped in a portable cage. He calls it a "Free Speech Pen," He says he's making an ironic statement.

"Free speech is free speech," Anthony says. "It's not something you're supposed to fence off conveniently where no one can hear what you're saying."

They are messages you won't hear inside the Xcel Energy Center this week. And if the Tredinnicks have their way, you won't hear them after tonight, at least in downtown St. Paul.



By [Joe Fryer](#), KARE 11 News

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